



# Meteor Heraut



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## Quick Read

### In General

#### Ceremonies set

Public Memorial Day ceremonies remembering American World War I and World War II dead during this 60th anniversary of the liberation of Europe and the end of World War II, have been scheduled May 28-29 at American military cemeteries in the Benelux nations. *May 28th ceremonies* are set at the Ardennes Military Cemetery, just south of Liege, Belgium, at 10 a.m.; at Luxembourg American Cemetery in Hamm, at 2 p.m.; and at the Henri-Chapelle Military Cemetery, Aubel, Belgium, north of Liege, at 4 p.m. *May 29 ceremonies* are set to honor World War I American dead in Flanders Field Cemetery, Waregem, Belgium, at 3 p.m.; and to honor World War II casualties at Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten, also at 3 p.m.

### Belgium

#### Toby Keith performs

A free concert by Toby Keith is May 21, 3 p.m., at the sports field behind SHAPE Health Clinic. Task Force Eight, of the SHAPE International Band, performs at 1 p.m. The concert is sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment and USO. Open to authorized ID card holders. Info: 065 44 3312.

#### Sweetheart banquet held

A marriage enrichment class and dinner are May 20, 6:30-9 p.m., at NSA Chapel Fellowship Hall. Info and signup: DSN 368-9783.

### Netherlands and Germany

#### Read for fun

Sign-ups for the JFC Library Summer Reading Program begin in June. The program is for ages three and older and runs June 21-Aug. 21. Those who complete the program will receive a reading certificate. This year's theme is *Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds*. Info: DSN 364-2669 or 31 45 526-2469.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

## Saying goodbye and good luck

Community members wished good luck to Soldiers and family members of 79th Medical Det. (Veterinary Services) at an April 18 reception just prior to the detachment's deployment. Members of the 79th will care for military working dogs and inspect food while they're away.

# Relationships key with youth

By Rick Haverinen

The adolescent substance abuse counselor in the SHAPE community said building relationships with young people is critical to parenting and for her to do her work.



Kelly

"We all have training," said Louise Kelly. "We all have the education. We have the experience. But if I don't have a relationship with that child, I don't care what college I went to, that kid is not going to pay attention. So to me, it's about building a relationship, and then it's figuring out with the kid, what they need. When I was 20 years old, I thought I had all the answers too, right? Well, I didn't."

Kelly is in her 12th year working for Science Applications International, which has the contract with many DOD agencies to provide alcohol and substance abuse counseling

for young people.

"We treat kids in grades 7-12 in the area of substance abuse," Kelly said, "and we do prevention. I have had such a good time working with kids, that I have completely revamped my career



Broderbund

*"But when you're 15 you think you're going to live forever. And you don't think anything bad ever's going to happen."* Louise Kelly

and stayed all those years."

Kelly said she finds working with teenagers more refreshing than her ex-

perience doing similar work with adults.

"I think working with kids is a lot more energizing," Kelly said, "because they're more open. They're more, believe it or not, honest. And they're less well-defended. To the kids, there's no stigma about going to a therapist. They don't have any false pride around pretending their lives are perfect. Now some kids probably would be uncomfortable going to the counselor, but adults are more worried about seeing a therapist. They're less open to new ideas. Kids are like sponges because, believe it or not, they want adults to talk to. They always look like they're not going to listen, and they don't care, and they have all the answers. But they really have a lot of questions."

Kelly said the mantra of self-esteem preached in education for recent decades may not have been accurately targeted in encouraging young people to make good choices.

"Self-esteem is an issue, but I have learned we cannot give away what we

See TEENS, Page 3.





**Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski**  
80th ASG Commander

Since we have recently completed the Volunteer Recognition Ceremonies at each of our three NATO communities, I would like to pick up on the subject of volunteering briefly mentioned in the last Commander's Corner. This comes from an **overwhelming reaction of thankfulness for the community spirit and spirit**

# Nowowiejski Notes

of volunteerism that I witnessed firsthand at two of our recognition events last week.

Without our many volunteers, we would not have **great quality of life or a strong sense of well being at Schinnen, Chievres, or Brussels**. Volunteers provide the labor that runs the community programs most of you care the most about: chapel, school, athletics, scouts, community awareness, crafts, recreation, or self-improvement. The programs that help our children to grow and mature in healthy and safe communities are mainly staffed with volunteers. We simply don't have the funds to pay for full-time employees to run these many programs, so all of the services depend on community volunteers to operate the programs that we all cherish the most.

It's hard to put a definite figure on what volunteers do in the entire 80th Area Support Group, but we can

say with some confidence that there are over 800 volunteers out there, who contributed approaching 100,000 volunteer hours last year. This contribution would cost the government nearly \$1.5 million in labor costs alone. The public funds simply aren't there, so that is a **positive value of your collective contribution**. Without you, programs worth that much would not exist.

Handing out certificates and trophies, and plenty of public applause to all of you volunteers isn't enough to recognize what you do. There isn't an appropriate way to thank all of you, however hard we try. The real value of what you do is what you know inside, that you have unselfishly made life better in a tangible way for someone in your community. **Thank you for serving, for caring, and for being selfless.** Your biggest reward is what you hold in your heart when you volunteer.

This column is a small additional thanks to all of you who were recognized recently in the volunteer recognition ceremonies at Brussels, Chievres/SHAPE, and Schinnen. It is more specifically for those of you who volunteered even an hour last year and didn't get specially recognized. We couldn't make the Benelux a great place to live without you. Thank you.

I have only two small things to ask in closing. If you are reading this and you haven't yet volunteered in your community, **would you try a few hours in the year ahead?** My belief is that if you volunteer just a little bit, you will sense a great reward and personal return. If you have a friend whom you think would serve well in one of our many community activities, please invite them. Last, if you do volunteer, **please make a note to yourself of every volunteer hour you work**, and submit them to your community volunteer coordinator when they ask for them. Next year, I will write about your own contribution. Thanks again.

## European trains have deadly electrical hazard

**Bell Sends #20-05**

27 April 2005

**SAFETY ALERT**

**Youth Electrocuted While Climbing on Railcar**

1. A German youth was electrocuted recently when he climbed onto an armored vehicle that was loaded on a railcar. He died when he was hit by a 15,000-volt arc of electricity from the powerlines above the railcar. He was only 18 years old. His 16-year-old companion was severely burned when he tried to rescue him.

2. By now, all Soldiers should be well aware of USAREUR policy on staying off of railcars once they are loaded. This policy, which is in AE Regulation 55-4, paragraph 36d(3)(a); and AE Pamphlet 385-15, paragraphs 29 and 30, was implemented because of several on- and off-duty fatalities and serious injuries that resulted when Soldiers climbed on railcars and came too close to the overhead powerlines.

3. This latest tragedy serves as a reminder

of what can happen if this policy is ignored. It also shows why we must teach our family members about the dangers of climbing on railcars, and highlights the related hazards of trying to rescue someone from this type of accident.

- Children must be warned to stay away from railyards. The theme of the German Rail Youth Protection Program is A Railyard is Not a High-Adventure Playground. Ensure your family members understand the risks involving railroads and the reasons why railroad tracks and railcars are off limits.

- Overhead rail powerlines in Germany have an incredibly high voltage and are extremely dangerous.

The electricity these lines carry can arc several feet before hitting and electrocuting you, just like a bolt of lightning. You do not have to touch these powerlines to be killed! Only a handful of specially trained individuals have the knowledge and skill to safely ground the system and attempt a rescue. Other rail systems in Europe are similar. Because of this danger, people who witness someone being shocked by these powerlines must not try to rescue or administer first aid unless the victim is thrown or falls well away from the power source. The safest thing to do is stay at a safe distance and call for help. In Europe, the number to call is usually 110 or 112.



**Gen. B. B. Bell**

4. The results of coming too close to overhead rail powerlines are quick and severe. Many of you may have seen The Green Mile, a 1999 film starring Tom Hanks. The film included a very graphic scene in which a man was executed in an electric chair. That scene illustrates what it is like to be

hit by an arc of electricity from a rail powerline.

5. Again, keep in mind that you can be seriously injured or killed without even touching a rail powerline. If you get too close to the line, the electricity will arc to the closest part of your body. Bystanders will hear a pop and see a flash. The arc will cause burn holes where it enters and exits the body, and the victim's clothing may catch fire. The current literally cooks the flesh and disrupts electrical impulses in the brain, the heart, and other muscles.

6. When I issued Bell Sends #3, SAFETY ALERT - Rail Operations, on 19 April 2003, I told you about a Soldier who climbed on top of a railcar and was se-

verely burned. He survived, but is permanently disabled. The picture below shows the vehicle on which the Soldier was climbing when he was injured. The circles indicate pieces of the Soldier's clothing and burn marks where the electricity passed through the Soldier and into the vehicle. This is the grim reality of being injured by high-voltage electricity.



7. This type of tragedy can be prevented by ensuring everyone—Soldiers, civilian employees, and family members—understands the dangers of railyards and, specifically, of climbing on railcars. Our goal is No Loss of Life. To help us achieve that goal, make sure everyone in your organization and in your family reads this message. Understanding and complying with this safety alert will help ensure we all remain safe and able to continue executing with excellence Any Mission, Anywhere.

**B. B. BELL**  
General, US Army  
Commanding

## Time remains to support Army Emergency Relief campaign via voluntary contributions

Time remains for voluntary contributions to the Army Emergency Relief campaign, according to Quentin Jackson, Human Resource

Assistant, 80th Area Support Group, and AER Campaign Coordinator.

"The campaign started March 1, and it runs until May

15," Jackson said, "but we can always contribute after May 15, and you can donate through Army allotment, and cash or check. We really need help this

year. Our goal this year is \$20,000 and so far we've raised just over \$11,000."

The AER program helps U.S. Army Soldiers in time of

emergency, such as travel support when there is a death in the family.

For more information, call Jackson at DSN 361-6200.



# Board game gets training message through

By Rick Haverinen

Soldiers in the 39th Signal Bn. have discovered training can be a fun thing to do because of a new visual aid.

The training aid is modeled after a typical board game that combines chance and knowledge.

"We wanted to develop a training aid for the Communications Best by Test which is given every six months," said the 39th Signal's Command Sgt. Maj. James Lester. "We needed to cover the areas of electronics, satellite communications,

communications security, network operations, telephone and wire, and information assurance. So we came up with this idea to train for the event."

The game board has a spinner that is whirled and it comes to rest pointing at one of the six subject areas. The Soldier will draw a card from one of the color coded areas and answer a question printed on the card. Each Soldier has a game piece that moves around the board.

The Best by Test itself is a two-day event with a written test on the first day and practicum demonstrations the

second day.

The idea of developing the board game came while on a temporary duty trip.

"I thought of this when the battalion commander and I were on the way to England one time," Lester said. "This is a difficult field because technology changes so fast."

When the leaders returned to Daumerie Caserne, Lester assembled a committee of subject matter experts who decided what questions should be printed on the game cards.

"We thought we'd go to TSC (Training Support Center, also on Daumerie Caserne,) to see if they could make it," Lester said. They made several



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

Left to right, Sgt. Carlos Cruz, Pfc. Michael Phillips, Spc. Krystal Stone, and Spc. Konrad Schlaubaum, all 39th Signal Bn., prepare for the Communications Best by Test using the new training aid designed like a board game.

sets of the actual boards with all of the cards and game pieces."

Soldiers are giving the board game high scores.

"I'm in the Adjutant General

Corps so it's a good training tool for me as an AG soldier," said Spc. Krystal Stone. "I'm a person who can't program my VCR so to see how the things work is a really neat process."

## If you can think of it, TSC can probably make it



PHOTO: Neil Neeley

Pascal Demeuldre, a Training Support Center illustrator, assembles the board game-styled training aid for 39th Signal Bn.

By Rick Haverinen

When the Training Support Center (TSC) office on Daumerie Caserne was asked to make a training aid that resembled a table game, the staff was a bit surprised.

"That was really something different," said



Sletten

successful."

The 39th Signal Bn.'s Command Sgt. Maj. James Lester wanted a new training aid to prepare his Soldiers for the Communications Best by Test.

"We had a lot of discussion about what it should look like," said TSC Manager Lyle Sletten. "The 39th Signal has their own colors of course and we wanted to stick to those colors if we could."

graphic artist Pierre Courtejoie. "We're used to making graphics for the standard kind of training, but this was really unique. It was a nice idea and I think using the angle of a game would help to make their training more



Courtejoie

Courtejoie and fellow graphic artist Pascal Demeuldre worked with 39th Signal on the design of the game board itself and producing the many little parts that go with a typical board game.

Demeuldre cut out multiple game pieces for the players to advance around the board, and painted each by hand.

The 39th Signal's Staff Sgt. Christopher Martinez was the liaison between his unit and TSC in getting the training aid produced.

"TSC actually bent over backwards in making it for us," Martinez said. "That was the first time they had ever done some-



Martinez

thing like that, and they were very helpful in doing it. They're always there for us and we really enjoy it."

## TEENS from Page 1

do not have ourselves," Kelly said. "So when the mothers come in here and they say, 'My child doesn't have self-esteem,' my question always is, 'Where is your self-esteem?' And I think probably years ago, we got that a little messed up. We have to take care of ourselves. So my word with parents is, 'Take care of yourself.' You know, the simple thing of modeling."

Kelly said in her experience, a good home environment does not always mean a child won't abuse drugs or alcohol.

"I think substance-abuse problems, and this is bad news, can develop or even flourish in families where parents are getting along very well," Kelly said. "The bad news I think is, substance abuse problems can flourish in all types of families. But the good news is, that in families where there is some cohe-

siveness between mom and dad, the impact of the substance use is decreased."

Young people are also affected by their contemporaries at school, Kelly said.

"Peers to a 15-year old are everything," Kelly said. "I cannot think of anything more important to a 15-year old than his friends. So peers are one of the factors which influence whether or not the kid will use (substances.) So part of what I do when I meet with kids is I say, 'Who are your friends? What do your friends like to do? Where do you go? What sports are you involved with? What hobbies do you have? Do you write? Do you draw? Do you sing? Do you do any of those things?' And you can tell a lot by the answers."

Kelly said peer relationships can be a very positive influence.

"When we bring up peer pressure,

we automatically go negative, but there's positive peer pressure," Kelly said. "I ask kids, 'Figure out a kid in the school who's not using (substances.) Explain to me why that kid is not using, and you are using. A simple thing like, 'How come that kid isn't tempted? What has that kid got that you can describe to be the difference between you and him?' And it's interesting, because some kids will never experiment. They just don't have the interest."

Interest can also fade when a young person no longer needs whatever he or she was getting from use of drugs or alcohol.

"My experience is that when the alcohol and the drugs have outlived their purpose, they stop," Kelly said. "And when a kid is drinking or using drugs, it's because that substance is serving a purpose. And the purpose

could be simply, 'I want to fit in with my friends.' Or it can be, 'I'm covering a pain.' It can be, 'I want to have fun.' Simple. But if kids learn other ways, then the purpose of the alcohol and the drug use will change. So anybody I know who ever stopped anything, it's because it has outlived its purpose. There were more negative consequences and not enough positive ones. So when I meet with kids I always ask, 'Why are you doing this? What's the purpose?' And the ones who have stopped, historically, it's because they were done. Now some go on to become addicted, and they don't stop. But again, working with kids, I rarely have seen that."

Kelly said anyone is able to make counseling referrals to her. Her telephone numbers are DSN 423-6048 or 065 44 4386. Her email address is louise.kelly@benelux.army.mil.



The 80th Area Support Group and the local volksmarch Club "Le Roitelet" hold the sixth edition of the "Aviators' March" on May 8, a date that coincides with the 60th anniversary of V-E Day (Victory in Europe) and Mother's Day. The departure of this IVV-sanctioned walk of 20, 15, 10 or 5 kilometers is at the Community Activity Center on Chièvres Air Base, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. Signs will direct you to the designated parking areas. All routes go along some of the historical sites of Chièvres and surrounding villages of Bauffe and Ladeuze where signs offer an explanation pertaining to the area. Other

activities are planned in partnership with the local cities. The fee is 75 euro cents. Refreshments and food are available and trophies will be awarded. Pre-registration is mandatory for those who do not have a valid installation access pass or U.S. ID card. Pre-registration allows access to Chièvres Air Base. To pre-register: Call the 80th ASG Public Affairs Office, DSN 361-5419 or commercial (32)68 27 5419, during duty hours; An on-line registration form in English and French is available at [www.80asg.army.mil](http://www.80asg.army.mil). Fill in the blanks and click on the "submit" button.

## NSA Brussels Calendar

**New Parent Education and Support Program** - The NPESP Office has moved to NSA Bldg. 2. Prenatal classes starting May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., NSA Chapel Fellowship Hall, advanced sign up required; Toddler playgroup every Tuesday, 10 a.m.-noon, CYS Multipurpose room, info, DSN 368-9684.

**NSA Education Center** - Every first Friday of the month, noon-2 p.m. Student Consultation at U.S. Embassy Brussels, Community Liason Office. Info, DSN 368-9704; Headstart, Free French language class, May 9-20, 9 a.m.-noon, NSA Education Center, Bldg. 1, Room 324. Sign up: DSN 368-9704; CLEP, DANTES, ECE, and other selected tests, May 11 and 25, 8:30 a.m., NSA Education Center, Bldg. 1; Headstart, Free Dutch language class, May 23-June 4, 9 a.m.-noon., NSA Education Center, Room 324. sign up: DSN 368-9704.

**Three Star Lounge**, DSN 368-9822 - May 6, Right Arm Night, 5-7 p.m.; May 6, Cinco de Mayo Party, 9 p.m.-midnight; May 7, Family Night, 7-9 p.m.; Movie Night, May 12, 19 and 26, 7 p.m.-midnight, call Three Star Lounge to get movie schedule.

## SHAPE / Chièvres Local Calendar

**Prime Time Lounge** - All-inclusive breakfast for \$5 or Euro 5, Mon-Fri, 7-9 a.m.

**SHAPE High School** - Spring Concert, May 26, 6:15 p.m., dessert buffet available, concert starts 7 p.m., IC Club SHAPE, free for students, Euro 4 adults. DSN 423-5783.

**Annual Job Fair** - May 26, 1-p.m., Hotel Le Maisières, DSN 423-4904.

**Newcomers Briefing**, May 11, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Hotel Le Maisières, DSN 423-4332.

**Cultural Adaptation Trip** - May 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., going to a vintage store and family brewery.

Cost for trip is Euro 5, includes entry fee and guided tour through brewery. Sign up at ACS, DSN 423-4332.

**Summer Reading Program** at Chievrès Library - Sign up deadline May 17-31. Info, DSN 361-6013.

**SHAPE Main Gym** hosts a Summer Basketball League. Meeting is May 25, 7 p.m., SHAPE Gym. League play starts June 1. Info, Steve, DSN 423-3905 or [stevie.richardson@benelux.army.mil](mailto:stevie.richardson@benelux.army.mil)

**Entertainment Centre** - *Missoula Children's Theatre* comes to SHAPE Entertain-

ment May 23-28 with auditions May 23, 4-6:30 p.m., at the Entertainment Centre. Rehearsals will be held every day thereafter, 4-8 p.m. Not all children will be called to every rehearsal, but it is only a one-week process. The performances will be May 28, times TBA. We will cast children in grades K-12. However, children from all nationalities are welcome. *The SHAPE Community 4th of July Choir* soon begins rehearsals for an event at the Officer's Club July 2. Singers and actors are needed. Give Jacque a call at DSN 423-3312.





PHOTO: Rick Haverinen

## Non-Commissioned Officer corps expands in April 28 ceremony

Left to right, Pvt. 1st Class Michael Phillips, 128th Signal Co.; Spc. Ryan Holland, U.S. Army NATO; and Pvt. 1st Class Robert Brimmer, 80th Area Support Group; light candles in a community NCO Induction Ceremony April 28 on Daumerie Caserne. Fifteen newly-promoted sergeants from U.S. Army NATO, 80th Area Support Group, 254th Base Support Bn., 39th Signal Bn., and NATO Support Activity pledged their commitment as leaders in the U.S. Army. The sergeants inducted were: Joel Zrolka, and Tommy Helms, 80th ASG military policemen assigned to NATO Support Activity in Brussels; William Hood and Danielle Browders, 254th Base Support Bn.; Shauna McNurlin, Samuel Ellis, José Arroyo, Charisse Bryant, Michael Crawford, Jarrod Ryan, and Sonya Jones, U.S. Army NATO; Evadne Hagigal, 80th ASG; Bryan Hardy, Brian Karst, and Artist Young, 39th Signal Bn.

## Volunteers shine in SHAPE, Chièvres communities

By Rick Haverinen

Volunteers in the SHAPE and Chièvres military communities received a portion of thanks due them in a ceremony April 29 at the SHAPE Community Club.

Over 80 volunteers received awards and applause and another six star volunteers were named in five categories.



Tsougeni

International Volunteer of the Year was Catherine Tsougeni, who gives her time at SHAPE Health Clinic in a wide variety of contributions on behalf of the American Red Cross. She also volunteers at the SHAPE Elementary School

and assists with Greek cooking classes.

Youth Volunteer of the Year was Kyra Froemke, a junior at SHAPE American High School, who contributed over 175 hours to Future Business Leaders of America and as manager of the club's balloon business. She also helped collect clothing for convalescing service members at Landstuhl Medical Center. She has organized bake sales to raise funds for FBLA and she appeared in SHAPE community theater.



Froemke

Volunteer Family of the Year was Chief Master Sgt. Tom and Joan Scheide. Joan performed in *The Women and Beauty and the Beast* at SHAPE Entertainment Centre as well as sold snacks during

intermissions and helped her husband Tom working backstage. Tom donated hundreds of hours designing, building, painting, and doing many other tasks to mount productions at the theater.



Tom and Joan Scheide

supporting the football program at SHAPE High School. His time has made it possible for the school to operate a junior varsity program for ninth and tenth graders.

Volunteer of the Year was Ann Wheatley, who is president of the board at the Grandma's Attic thrift store, where she contributed over 1,200 hours of her time. She has also supported Future Business Leaders of America and she organized an event that raised \$2,000 to buy personal items for service members convalescing at Landstuhl Medical Center. She helped the SHAPE High School football team raise funds to buy new uniforms and equipment. She helped start Family Readiness Groups for the SHAPE Bn. and U.S. Army NATO Bde., baked cookies for equal opportunity events, and donated arts and crafts materials for



Wheatley



Dillon

Military Volunteer of the Year was Lt. Col. Michael Dillon, G-3 for U.S. Army NATO. Dillon has volunteered four seasons sup-

Bible School programs, as well as helping many other activities in a wide variety of ways.

"The volunteers are absolutely fabulous," said 80th Area Support Group Volunteer Coordinator Grace Cesonis. "Every year it surprises me as they give more and more of their time and talents."

The volunteer program on SHAPE is especially fortunate because of the time given by members of the multi-national community. Cesonis said she has about 3,000 volunteers who support a myriad of programs. They contributed over 32,000 hours during the last year, saving the military communities about \$550,080 in salaries.

"There are so many organizations that have volunteers that operate programs that could not exist if it were not for their help," Cesonis said. "Most of the youth activities and sporting events are all run by volunteers. If it weren't for those people, the youth would have nothing to do. For example, Grandma's Attic is totally volunteer-operated. If we didn't have those people working there, we wouldn't have a thrift shop. They not only give us a place to get rid of things that we don't want any more, but they also donate all that money they raise back to the community."



Cesonis

## Recycling center can save your time and the 80th ASG's money

The 80th Area Support Group cut the ribbon on its new recycling center April 25 on Chièvres Air Base. The facility could have opened earlier if not for an extended curing time for concrete floors before they could be coated with a sealer.

The facility has bins inside to recycle or dispose of white paper, cardboard cartons, mixed wood, wood pallets,

scrap metal, construction debris, green plat trimmings, styrofoam, plastic sheeting, electric cables, electronic apparatus, and tires.

Containers outside the area can be used even when the facility is closed for plastic bottles, glass bottles, metals, and cardboard.

Some of the waste can be sold to mitigate disposal costs.

The hours are Weds., 1-5:30 p.m.; Fri., 8:30 a.m.-noon; and Sat., 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The recycling center can also handle hazardous waste. For information call Jean Pierre Pigeolet at the Environmental Management Office, DSN 361-5704.

Right: Belgian Army Lt. Col. Yves Goessens cuts the ribbon for the Chièvres Air Base Recycling Center April 25.



PHOTO: Rick Haverinen



# 254th BSB Tri-border News



**Jo Dohmen places used toner cartridges into the hazardous waste bin at the Schinnen Sort Center.**

**Story and photos by Sylvia Bowron**

An Environmental Performance Assessment System (EPAS) external assessment was successfully completed at the 254th Base Support Bn. April 11-15, by a team contracted by Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E). The purpose of an external assessment is to assist Army commanders in attaining, sustaining, and monitoring compliance with federal and local laws.

The inspection team consisted primarily of engineers and scientists from The Environmental Company (TEC), Inc. and included personnel from the U.S. Center of Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Europe (USCHPPM-EUR) and URS Group, Inc.

The last external EPAS was in October 2001, by a team from URS Group, Inc. and government personnel who were representatives of U.S. Army Europe. "These are the best results we've seen at any installation since the last time we were at Schinnen" said Wanda Johnsen, Environmental Compliance Program Manager, IMA-E Public Works Division.

These teams are responsible for 19 specific media areas: environmental program management, air emissions, wastewater, hazardous material, hazardous waste management, medical waste management, solid waste management, petroleum, oils and lubricants, environmental noise, pesticides, cultural and natural resources, asbestos, Radon, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), lead-based paint, spill prevention/response planning, underground storage

tanks (USTs) and drinking water (done by the people from preventive medicine).

"The EPAS is conducted every three years," said Hans Verwasch, 254th BSB Environmental Management Officer. "The team inspected many areas on post and also the Community Support Center (CSC) Treebeek, Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum and DODDS Volk School. Active Army installations are assessed to ensure they comply with the Final Governing Standards (FGS) for their region."

According to Verwasch, the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD) took into account that some countries had their own environmental laws and some had none; some laws were stringent, others not.

In 1994-1995, country specific environmental standards for DOD were developed using the OEBGD as a starting point and those environmental standards are called the FGS. The host nation provincial and federal authorities recognize the incorporation of Dutch standards into the FGS and support the 254th BSB's environmental mission. The Dutch Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issues environmental permits for the 254th BSB.

"No matter where a post is in Europe, they all have the same environmental standards to follow," said Verwasch. "The more stringent ones are followed and those are generally the host nation's standards. The Netherlands FGS (revised in Feb. 2003) are the standards that were used for our

## 254th EPAS rating in top 10 percent of European region

EPAS," he said.

Since the last Environment Compliance Assessment System (ECAS) in FY 02, 11 improvements in media were sighted and only one BSB-wide finding was mentioned. The finding was that backflow prevention devices have yet to be installed on the Schinnen Mine Complex.

"The cross-connection and backflow prevention devices are placed in the water pipelines to ensure the water flows in only one direction," Verwasch said. "Sometimes water pressure fluctuates causing water to back up. This device prevents the water from backing up and becoming contaminated," he continued. "The device can capture contamination and restrict it to a small area thus preventing it from contaminating the rest of the pipeline, making cleanup easier."

"A low percentage of repeat findings is very good news," said Johnsen. "There is an excellent working relationship between the BSB's Environmental Management Office (EMO) and the local environmental regulators."

At their meetings, EMO staff explained to local regulators that the FGS is the DOD standard for 254th BSB facilities and operations. This explanation resulted in the regulators adopting the FGS as the compliance criteria for all 254th BSB installation operating permits instead of imposing additional host nation standards.

According to Johnsen, the 254th BSB was the first Europe Region BSB to complete their Internal Assessment Plan and to conduct it using the IMA-E EPAS software. This allows the internal and external EPAS findings to be tracked at weekly DPW meetings. Issues which cannot be resolved at the Director of Public Works (DPW) level are raised to the battalion commander. The tracking of corrective actions resulted in the BSB having only two re-

peat findings within garrison operations.

The EMO is an active participant in the BSBs Productivity Improvement Review. "I am abusing the PIR system," Verwasch said with a chuckle. "I submit a lot of PIRs. About 60-70 percent of them are environmentally related."

A part of this is working to consolidate hazardous material (HM) storage into fewer locations. An HM control center is currently being established and will eventually serve the DPW shops as well as post tenants.

The last positive finding by the team was recycling. "Recycling here is estimated at 84 percent and exceeds the DOD metric of 40 percent," said Verwasch. "Schinnen's recycling rate exceeds the IMA-E goal," said Johnsen. "The SORT center opening six days a week was a great idea. It increases recycling opportunities," she said.

"This is a pretty clean installation," said Verwasch. "If you take Schinnen and compare it with the rest of the posts in Europe, we have less findings. We had four positive program strengths and the norm is generally two. The team leader has never given four positive program strengths. We are the first installation to be given four positive program strengths," Verwasch said proudly.

The 254th BSB is ahead of the European region in 17 of the 19 protocols. "17 out of 19 is very good," said Johnsen. "Schinnen has a very good Water Management Program, which is very important as this is a force protection issue. Another positive note is the fantastic effort in the restoration of Lake Schinnen," added Johnsen. "We think that Verwasch has the best program we have seen in a year and a half. Performance wise, the 254th BSB is in the top ten percent of the region, and that includes all of Europe," she concluded.



**Schinnen Lake is an environmentally friendly wetland protecting rare and endangered animal and plant species. The lake has resting areas and viewing platforms with benches, a nature walking path around it and 40 plaques describing rare plants in the area.**



# 254th BSB Tri-border News

## AFNORTH Bn. selects Soldier, NCO of the Year

By Sylvia Bowron

AFNORTH Bn. held their Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year board April 15, at the Joint Force Command, Brunssum, Alliance Theater.

Spc. Jennifer Ream, a supply specialist and armorer with Component Command-Land (CC-L), Heidelberg was named Soldier of the Year, and Sgt. Brett Seibel, Bandwidth Management Equipment and High Communication NCO at Command Information System Support Company (CIS), Maastricht was named NCO of the Year.

Spc. Reginald B. Merritt, HHC, AFNORTH Bn. was runner-up for Soldier of the Year and Sgt. Freddie J. Harrison, was runner-up for NCO of the year.

254th Base Support Bn. Command Sergeant Major, John M. Gaines Jr., was the guest speaker for the ceremony.

"It requires a lot of teamwork and discipline. Teamwork and discipline are like combat skill multipliers, they need to be taught, developed and applied. These are just two of the many vital tools an NCO or Soldier must have in today's Army. These Soldiers have all demonstrated those qualities," he continued.

Seibel, a 27 year-old native of Upper Saddle River, N.J., has competed in other boards during his eight years in the Army. "This was more competitive and more physical than other boards I have been to," said Seibel. "It was definitely more challenging and I enjoyed the challenge. It was a good experience," he added.

The competition entailed the Physical Fitness Test (PFT), an essay, weapon qualification with M-16, Common Task Test (CTT), Day Land Navigation, road march and the board competition.

"We knew we had to write an essay, but didn't know the topic," said Seibel. "We had to write, type, one page on the Army Values, summarize them, and

then tell what each one meant to me. I enjoyed this event because it was the most relaxing," added Seibel.

The essay was no problem for Ream. "The Army Values as a whole are what the Army is based upon," said Ream. "Pride, Integrity, Duty, Respect, Honor, Personal Courage and Selfless Service; that's the Army in a whole. You can't take one out," she said proudly.

"I enjoyed the CCT because I got to show off what I knew," said the Evansburg, Pa. native. "Spec. Merritt is very tactical and technical and was an excellent competitor."

"The road march was the hardest part for me," said Ream. "Merritt was in front of me and I knew I had to keep up and try to pass him. I had to keep telling myself 'get up there, get up there,'" said the 23 year-old Soldier.

For Seibel, the board was his biggest concern. "There was a lot to study, but, only a very little of what you study was actually asked," he said. "They gave us about ten pages of items to study, but not many were asked."

"This board had a lot more topics than other boards," Seibel continued. "It covered supply, economy, Noncommissioned Officers Evaluation Reports (NCOERs) and more. The questions they give us to study from, the board changed them into a situational question. So it made you think more," said Seibel.

Both Ream and Seibel, were awarded the Army Achievement Medal for being selected Soldier/NCO of the Year. They each also received the battalion commander's coin; gifts, gift certificates and AAFES



PHOTO: Spc. Brendan Howard

**Competitors for AFNORTH Soldier and NCO of the Year receive instructions on the land navigation portion of the competition.**

gift cards.

Merritt and Harrison received an AFNORTH Bn. Certificate of Achievement, the battalion commander's Coin of Excellence and a few gifts for being the runners up.

Gaines commented on the considerable amount of time these Soldier and NCOs dedicated to study and mental preparation that go along with this competition. "Keep in mind this is beyond the call of duty. This is in addition to their many daily duties and commitments to their unit's mission."

Gaines congratulated the Soldiers and NCOs who competed in the competition and stated there were no losers. "Everyone is a winner. However, because points are associated with each phase of competition, there can be only one who holds the title of NCO and Soldier of the Year," he concluded.

## Community volunteers receive deserved rewards



PHOTO: Sylvia Bowron

**Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell and his wife Jennifer make the first cut in the ceremonial cake.**

The 254th Base Support Bn., Army Community Service, thanked more than 200 volunteers during a special ceremony April 19, at Hoensbroek Kastel. Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson, commander of the 254th BSB, presented volunteers certificates of appreciation and other awards and gifts for their services.

Teri Ryan, Army Volunteer Core Coordinator, opened the festivities welcoming Maj. Gen. Gary Harrell, U.S. Senior Representative to the Netherlands,

Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum, the battalion commander, and all volunteers before introducing the guest speaker Carmen Richardson, wife of the battalion commander, and a volunteer herself.

Carmen Richardson cited various descriptions of a "volunteer" and the value of having volunteers in an organization. "You are the celebrities here," Richardson said earnestly. "Your volunteer commitment benefits the battalion, tenant units, Child Youth Services (CYS), School Age Services (SAS), AFNORTH International School and other organizations," she said. "You donate your time, talent, service, and commitment to help, and make a difference to the community." She concluded by thanking them for their hours of service to the tri-border community and the 254th BSB.

Volunteers who gave 1-99 hours of service received certificates. Bronze, silver and gold awards were presented to volunteers who served 100-500 hours plus.

Following these presentations, awards were presented to: Tech. Sgt. Mahlon Broadwater of Headquarters (HQ) Support Group, Morale and Welfare Branch, JFC HQ Brunssum - Military Volunteer of the Year Award; Sandy Borger - Civilian Volunteer of the Year and Commander's Award for Civilian Service;

Misha Villahermosa - Commander's Award for Public Service and Youth Volunteer of the Year; Sponsor of the Year - Tech. Sgt. Darrell Howard; Melissa Broadwater - Family Member Volunteer of the Year and Commander's Award for Public Service; Munoz-Cook family - Family of the Year.

In addition to certificates, all who were selected as "Volunteer of the Year" also received an AAFES gift certificate, a \$50 savings bond from Andrews Federal Credit Union and one piece of furniture from United Furniture.

Special recognition was paid to Kim Lowe for her donations of countless hours as President of the American Spouses Club, Thrift Shop liaison and several other duties. Richardson, acting on Maj. Gen. Eldon Bargewell's behalf, awarded Lowe the Commander's Award for Public Service.

Ryan presented Richardson with a symbolic check for \$300, 270.62 representing the amount of money saved by the battalion as a result of the 17, 467.75 hours donated by volunteer workers.

Richardson accepted the check and thanked everyone for their service and support to the 254th BSB and the Tri-Border community. "Your help makes a difference."

# 254th BSB Tri-border News

## 254th BSB Local Calendar

### Army Emergency Relief Campaign

The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Campaign is underway until May 15. A private nonprofit organization, AER is the Army's own emergency financial assistance provider dedicated to "Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own." The 254th BSB goal is \$4,000 and, according to Sgt. 1st Class José Cruz, AER program coordinator, contributions are far below that goal. All donations are strictly on a volunteer basis. Active duty and retired Army contributions make this an 'Army of One' effort. Cruz will be in the Headquarters Bn. foyer, May 6, 9, and 13, 10-11:30 a.m., to accept all AER donations. Info: DSN 360-7226 or log onto <http://www.aerhq.org/index.asp>

### Financial fitness training offered.

Army Community Service and Andrews Federal Credit Union hold "Get in Shape with Solutions for a Lifetime" class, May 25, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at Schinnen ACS conference room, to improve budgeting

and check book management and more. The class is open to all active-duty and family members. Please bring a calculator, pay vouchers and copies of bills. Lunch will be provided. Seating is limited. Info: DSN 360-7450 or 31 (0)46 443-7450 or stop by the ACS or AFCU to sign up.

### Mother's Day Brunch

The International Inn hosts a Mother's Day Brunch May 8, 10:30 a.m. -2 p.m., offering a large variety of cuisine. Prices are Euro 15.95 for adults, half price for ages 6-12, and free for children under six. Reservations: DSN 364-3188 or 31 (0)45 526-3188.

### International Volksmarch

The Tri-Border Walking Club invites you to its 23rd annual international Volksmarch on May 29. Info: 31 (0)45 527-6356 or e-mail: [kabenke@prettel.nl](mailto:kabenke@prettel.nl)

### Club sponsors drive

The American Spouses Club is collecting school supplies for children in Iraq and Afghanistan. Items needed are:

New or slightly used backpacks, 12-inch ruler with metric markings, blunt end scissors, pencils, large erasers, colored pencils, notebook paper, composition books, folders with pockets

and pencil bags. Donations can be taken to the Schinnen Thrift shop or to the Family Support Center at Geilenkirchen. For more information call 0245210-6705.

## Women's bowling team brings home the Commander's Cup

Eight members of the 254th BSB Tri-Border community represented Schinnen at the 2005 Army-Europe Bowling Championships April 20-22, in Hohenfels, Germany.

There were 21 men's teams and 5 ladies teams competing in this year's tournament. The Schinnen men's team consisted of Ron McCulley, Ray Greer, Craig Anderson and Joe Pinaula. Although the team didn't place in this year's event, Craig Anderson and Joe Pinaula won second place in the doubles event missing first place by 87 pins.

The women's team, made up of Gloria Flores, Rosie VanDuyan, Mercy Komen and Kristin Elmore, loaded their van and left early in the morning April 19, to make the trip to Hohenfels.

"We didn't know what to expect, and decided to just bowl, have fun and hopefully win," said Flores. "When we started bowling in the team event on Wednesday, we had to share lanes with a men's team from Darmstadt, Germany," said Flores. "That was no problem. We were determined to bowl and have fun and have no stress playing. It was great," she said.

The Schinnen women's team placed first in Wednesday's team event. Thursday, Flores and Elmore placed second in doubles to the Vilseck team.

"We had such a great day Wednesday and had a lot of fun. Even

the men's team who bowled next to us and other teams commented on how lively we were," said Flores. "Thursday was the doubles event, and although the men's team didn't bowl until 10:30 a.m., they came in at 8 a.m. to watch us bowl and encourage us," said Flores. "By that time everyone kept saying 'here come those Schinnen ladies,'" she added.

Kristin Elmore won the coveted Army-Europe all-event bowling title. Elmore and Flores took second place in the Doubles event with the second highest total pins for six games. Mercy Komen took third place in all events with the highest total pins for 18 individual games, and first place Singles Event for the highest total pins for six games. Komen took first place in Friday's women's singles and Elmore took second place.

"It's funny, but, they kept calling our name 'Schinnen' when they were giving out the awards," said Flores. "In the team events, we won the Team High game, which is the highest team score for one game, and first place Team Event for the highest total pins for six games," she said.

Schinnen women's team came out of the tournament on top when the team earned the Commander's Cup for the highest total pins for 18 games. "We bowled our best, and had a good time," concluded Flores.

## Leisure Activities ~ by Rita Hoefnagels

**May 6:** *International Potter's Festival* at Market Square in the center of Gouda (NL). Potters from all over the world display their wares and demonstrate how ceramics are made. No entrance fee. Information: 31 (0)180-322147.

**Hair**, the love and rock musical in MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 42.50. Begins at 8:15 p.m. Information/reservations: 31 (0)43-3505555.

**May 7-8:** *Home and Garden Fair* at kasteelhoeve "De Grote Hegge" in Thorn (NL). Information: 31 (0)475-563399.

**Thru May 8:** Jazz Festival at different locations in the center of Breda (NL). This is one of the largest jazz festivals and it includes open-air concerts, street parades, jazz market, and an ecumenical jazz service in the "Grote Kerk" and an international competition for jazz bands. No entrance fees. Information: 31 (0)76-5151471.

*International Concours Hippique* in Eindhoven (NL). The official Derby of Holland, the Grand Prix of Eindhoven and the Grand Prix de Dressage are the main attractions at this horse show. Information: 31 (0)499-398115.

*Spring Fair* with the newest trends on living, interior and fashion at MECC in Maastricht (NL). Entry: Euro 6.50. Information: 31 (0)43-3838383.

At the "Hap Stap" Festival in the center of Tilburg (NL) enjoy snacks, delicatessen, special beers, delicious wines and lots of entertainment. No entrance fee.

**May 11-16:** *Art Fair* at RAI in Amsterdam (NL) with more than 125 art dealers, who present modern art, ranging from decorative to applied art, from established to innovative art. Entry: Euro 15. Information: 31 (0)20-5491212.

**May 13-16:** *Culinary Eindhoven*. Sample the delicious tidbits some twenty restaurant owners from the region will prepare for you on the spot in the center of Eindhoven (NL). Sit back, relax and enjoy the music. No entry fee. Information: 31 (0)40-2433135.

**May 14:** *National Windmill Day* at several locations in The Netherlands. Numerous millers welcome visitors to come and look inside these beautiful and characteristic monuments. A blue ribbon at a mill means it's open to the public. Free entrance.

**May 14-15:** *Open House Days Dutch Royal Army at Army Base in Oirschot* (NL) with lots of demonstrations, equipment, and other activities. No entrance fee.

**May 14-16:** *Vikings at Historic Open Air Museum* (Historisch Openlucht Museum) in Eindhoven (NL). Discover how the Vikings lived and enjoy some spectacular demonstrations and a real Viking Market. Entry: 6.50 euro. Info: 31 (0)40-2522281.



## JFC Alliance Theater

**May 6, 7:30 p.m.** *Because of Winn Dixie*. Starring Jeff Daniels, Cicely Tyson. Rated PG.

**May 7, 4 p.m.** *Hitch*. Starring Will Smith, Eva Mendes. Rated PG-13.

**7 p.m.** *Constatine*. Starring Keanu Reeves, Rachel Weisz. Rated R.

**May 13, 7:30 p.m.** *Cursed*. Starring Christina Ricci, James Brolin. Rated PG-13.

**May 14, 4 p.m.** *The Pacifier*. Starring Vin Diesel, Brad Garrett. Rated PG.

**7 p.m.** *Man of the House*. Starring Tommy Lee Jones, Cedric the Entertainer. Rated PG-13.

**May 19, 7:30 p.m.** *Be Cool*. Starring John Travolta, Uma Thurman. Rated PG-13.

**May 20, 4 p.m.** *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*. Starring Kimberly Elise, Steve Harris. Rated PG-13.

**7 p.m.** *Million Dollar Baby*. Starring Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman. Rated PG-13.



# Wizard visits SHAPE

Auditions for the Missoula Children’s Theater production of “The Wiz of the West” are May 9, 3:45-5:45 p.m. in the SHAPE International School Cafeteria. All In-

ternational school elementary students are encouraged to try out for one of the many roles. This story follows our friends from the Land of OZ through the wild, wild west of yesteryear – but with a twist... or should we say a twister? Rehearsal starts 30 minutes after the auditions at 6:15 pm for some of the

cast members. Rehearsals are May 10-12, 2-4 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m. Dress rehearsal is May 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Performances are May 13, 2:30 and 7 p.m., in the International School cafeteria. Join over 50 elementary school students in an original musical. Admission is free.



## Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Deadline		Print Date		Deadline		Print Date		Deadline		Print Date		Deadline		Print Date	
May 9		May 20		June 6		June 17		July 4		July 15		Aug. 8		Aug. 19	
May 23		June 3		June 20		July 1		July 25		Aug. 5		Aug. 23		Sept. 2	

# About the Meteor-Heraut

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